

Technology & Data Management

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New Technology Helps in Many Ways

Collaborative efforts regarding data and information sharing are benefiting management of our natural resources. Recent cooperative efforts in Iowa have allowed development of fisheries databases that provide public access via internet to various types of fishery data. Iowa has recently embarked upon a new web tool for stream fish data with its new Water Web application, available at <http://programs.iowadnr.gov/iowawaterweb/Map.aspx>. Collaborative efforts to keep this data current have been undertaken by fisheries staff and environmental protection staff in Iowa, who collect data according to matching protocols, store that data in a common data system, and supply the data to these online services. These staffs have also worked in conjunction to link statewide lake water quality monitoring efforts, lake fishery data and other lake management information in online data systems, which are served to the public via the Water Web application, Lake Minireports <http://limnoweb.eeob.iastate.edu/minireport/> and fish reporting system (<http://limnology.eeob.iastate.edu/lakereport/fishhome.aspx>).

New information and updated maps on the web site. The internet has become the primary tool by which we disseminate information to the public, and over 40% of Iowa anglers visit the Iowa DNR web site. This tool continues to increase in popularity, and the Iowa DNR is currently undertaking a massive restructuring effort regarding the DNR's web site. Check out the progress at www.iowadnr.gov, and make sure to look for new and updated lake and trout stream maps, as well as fish stocking and fish survey data.

New system provides information about various events, allows online applications.

In 2010, all fishing clinic, fishing tournament, snow event, boating event, ATV event, state park events and dog trial applications were processed using the new Special Events system. The new system was designed to have all events processed within 30 days, and will notify the applicant of a potential scheduling conflict, if there is a confirmed event for the same resource. All events for state owned or managed areas are listed on the site, providing to the public previously unavailable access and information about events. More than 1,000 special events were entered into the system in 2010 by various clubs, organizations or the general public. The new system allowed applicants and the general public to search for facilities to meet their needs, or to browse through a list of events in the calendar, for events on state managed lands or selected other natural resources of the state.

Individuals filling out an application for the first time will need to create a user account. The new system is designed to handle all events for public lands - outside of state park campsite, lodge and shelter rentals. <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/specialevents/>.